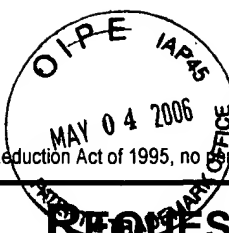


CUSTOMER NO: 004372



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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,
 provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application
 filed on or after June 8, 1995.
 See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/917,725
Filing Date	July 31, 2001
First Named Inventor	E. CANON
Group Art Unit	3624
Examiner Name	D. Charles
Attorney Docket Number	023693-00001

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to application Examination and Provisions Application Practice, Fine Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50632 (Aug. 10, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14069 (Mar. 20, 2000); 1235 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____
 (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Preliminary Amendment
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees

The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, fee deficiency or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing Attorney Docket No. 023693-00001.
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) (\$395.00) 05/05/2006 SZEWDIE1 000000006 012300 09917725
- ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17) 01 FC:2801 395.00 DA
- iii. ☐ Other Petition Fee (\$ _____)
- b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$510.00 (EOT- 3 month fee)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Wilburn L. Chesser	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	41,668
Signature	<i>George E. Oran</i> 27931	Date	May 4, 2006

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.